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Headquarters Region III, AMG.

(25)
December 24, 1943.

My Dear Chayne,

Things are a good deal worse than I described to you in my letter yesterday. I find now that General Fox has told General Pence that he is going to be typhus king here and that in his temporary absence in Algiers and Cairo (he's gone today) Soper is to act in this capacity in his stead.

Needless to say I should resent the manner in which this has been done and I dispute his authority to appoint of his own accord a man who has been definitely assigned by AFHQ to work here with Region III under my direction.

Soper presented his report on requirements yesterday evening but told me that this could only be "of academic interest" because "some" action on it had already been taken by General Pence at P.B.S. I therefore felt paralyzed because I didn't know exactly what action was being taken by P.B.S. and where I came in.

I exposed the whole situation to Hume and Kraege and Hume and I went to see General Pence and got very little change out of him. I begged that at least I should be informed of the degree and character of the assistance which P.B.S. are giving Soper so as to avoid duplication of work but his attitude generally was that he was only dealing with Soper, that General Fox had appointed Soper and implied that for all he cared I need not exist. He just will not deal with AMG.

In these circumstances I am finding it very difficult to retain my grip on the typhus campaign and although I do not wish to say that I cannot be held responsible because I want to be a "good soldier" you will appreciate that the situation is becoming critical.

I am both disappointed and distressed at this turn of events.

Yours in haste,

(Signed): W.H. Crichton.

*Copied from the Typhus Control file
of the 15th Army Group in A.C. Archives
JHM*